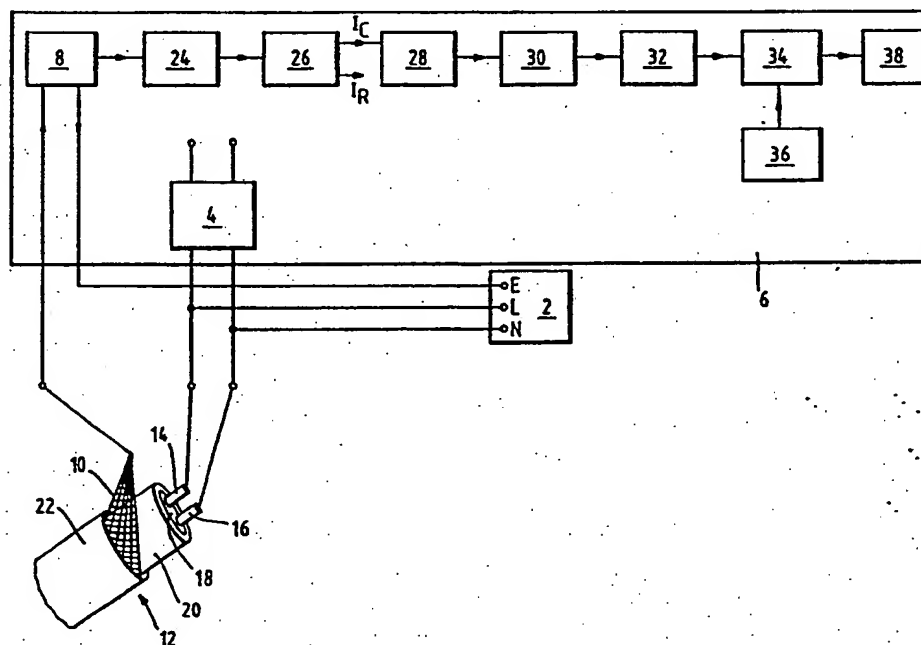


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(54) Title: MONITORING ELECTRIC CABLES



(57) Abstract

A self-regulating heater cable (12) is monitored for detection of any damage thereto or discontinuity therein. The monitoring consists in comparing the value of the capacitive component of the earth leakage current following in the cable (12) between its live or neutral conductors (14, 16) and its earthed braid (10) at any one time with a predetermined value that itself is indicative of an intact cable. The value of the capacitive component of the earth leakage current is used to identify the location of any fault along the length of the cable (12).